



## COMMENT

### HEY HOLD THAT BRICK

We have plunged. Many of you pushed us to it. But we were willing. So; the Broadsheet now appears in its new guise. It comes as a newspaper. It comes in print. It might come monthly; that depends on you. It is something to read, to throw away for the other fellow to peruse—for the purpose of a Broadsheet is to spread news and views. And the purpose of the Toc H London Broadsheet is to spread the very presence in London of Toc H.

This issue, we know—so hold that brick—is full of imperfections. Arranging news items, devising features—our pen was running hot—to say nothing about decorating them with type, is as arduous a pleasure as that of a woman trying out a new hat; to say nothing of the fact that also someone else will foot the bill! Which in this case it is, dear reading public, you. (We hope). If not we perish. Even so with the anxious moments passed, the price debated, the issue made, the poor thing may not suit! But be patient please. It takes time to acquire a style—centuries a “new look”.

Much of the news in this issue may seem out of date. It is—but hold that brick. This is a defect which with your help we will amend. Right now we had to make a start and with the best material to our hands. Appear among you Unit, District and Area Correspondents and then let our columns ring with vital, lively and interesting news.

So much for that. Newspapers, however, contain more than news. Think of our great and popular contemporaries. There are features, commentaries, write-ups, notices, reviews, things fit both for the highbrow and the dumb. All these, must find a place; Toc H and otherwise. Give us time and we will see what we can do. This paper then must be more than a family sheet—no wicker-acks please—for Toc H is more than a family life beside the unit fire; it is something in the way of life. If, therefore, you don't care to read what we have written, remember others may.

Finally this is the first venture of its kind. We have no precedence to guide us. You need not be fed up if you give us the feed. So; Hold that brick. Thank you. The Broadsheet then is passed to you.

## FAIRTHOUGHT

Our often expressed wish that the handling of National and International as well as personal affairs could be dominated by the Toc H spirit has sometimes appeared sentimental, unreal, unrelated to facts and pious.

Today the Toc H spirit—let it have what name it will—is a necessity.

Recent events at home and abroad; the merging of Czechoslovakia into an eastern sphere of influence and the coming together of Western Europe into a common bond; political heresy hunting at home; the sickness of Asia and the continuing tragedy of Palestine reveal a state of chaos and misery equal to anything in the past history of mankind.

The problems raised have to be faced and tackled firmly. But they have also to be tackled with understanding and clear thinking. Here Toc H comes in.

For the Toc H mind there can be no absolute lines of rightness or wrongness. Opinions of other people can only be judged in terms of their honesty, sheer integrity and belief and the amount of accurate knowledge that go to make them up. Toc H members themselves therefore should now more than ever call to mind the obligation to “find their own convictions, to influence the formation of public opinion thus to replace social and racial antagonism by intelligent understanding.”

# PANCAKE PARTY A GREAT SUCCESS

Over 2,000 members drawn from both the Women's and Men's Sections attended the London Toc H Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday evening, 10th February, at the Central Hall, Westminster. Such Halls are not usually conducive to an informal family atmosphere; but owing to careful planning and to the strict timing, laced with quips of the Chairman, Brian Dickson of the Oxford and Thames Valley Area, there was plenty of opportunity for mixing and rambling among one's friends.

The Toc H Pancake Party has been a yearly event in Toc H London since the early days. It was originally Tabby's own family party. In a sense it still is. This year, however, Tabby was absent being abroad in the U.S.A.—to be precise “deep in the heart of Texas”; and very deep too it would seem if the reports are true of a Toc H unit already springing to life there. The absent host, however, cabled his greetings. So also did Jack Shaw and ‘Lemon’ Le Maître, both outward bound for Toc H service in New Zealand and Australia.

## Grease and Gorgonzola

This year in spite of rationing, a pancake was indeed present; permission for its appearance having been legally obtained through ordinary channels from Mr. Strachey. It was tossed into a milling serum of doughty dough-downers drawn from the London Districts by Bill Paxton of the P.M. Boy's Club who had also made this rare form of edible.

The ‘Grease’—ancient name for the tossing and tearing apart of pancakes—was conducted along traditional lines with perhaps one or two innovations prompted by the spirit of Toc H, which as everyone knows is both pointed and unreasonable. The entrance of the Pancake was heralded by a trumpet and accompanied by a drum! The severe contest that followed was won by David Dove of Stifford Branch and S.E. Essex District. He bore away the perennial prize—a 10/- note issued by Baden Powell at the Siege of Mafeking.

Toc H gatherings are never noted for long solemnity. The appearance of the Gorgonzola Branch in full flavour which, in the space of twenty minutes conducted unashamedly its own second-rate Toc H meeting, added a tang of humour to the occasion. It was a pointed sally that went not amiss. And it is likely to be a pass-word in Toc H London for some time to come. To balance this intrusion, however, a loftier tone was reached by the Toc H Male Voice Choir which delighted its audience with sea-shanties. The attempts at community singing of modern songs, on the other hand, in spite of the exertions of Robbie Robinson, late of the Argentine, promptly lowered it again.

## Challenging Speech

The Ceremony of Light led by Harry Gell, Chairman of the South London Area, took place amid a simple but colourful and ceremonial setting of Toc H banners hanging along the balcony and at the back of the platform. Eight lamps only were kindled, one for the Men's and one for the Women's Section from each of the four London Areas. These were carried by younger members; of whom in fact a refreshingly large number were present in the hall.

The Rev. H. Leggate, M.C. Administrative Padre of Toc H who followed the Ceremony, and was the



chief speaker began by analysing the amazing but fantastic technological situation of modern times; bewildering for the ordinary citizen through the urgency and strain of living in such a world and preventing him from seeing a way through. “Nor”, said Padre Leggate, “are the Intelligentsia much help in this. The Intelligentsia, having been described as ‘folk whose intellect has outrun their intelligence!’” Turning to immediate problems the speaker referred to the prevalent danger of social life being divided between the bitterness of those who formerly “had” but “have” no longer, and the arrogance of the “had nots” who now “have”. This is a problem which Toc H was obviously designed to tackle.

As a society drawn from men and women of all kinds who have to work their ideals of understanding and common service into the human situation, the Toc H movement must stress more and more the importance of personal relationships. This was

Top—The serum for the grease. Below—The Victor, David Dove of Stifford Branch receiving the prize from the hands of Sir Colin Jardine.

particularly necessary and urgent in an age in which man tends to become either an abstraction or a definition in somebody's “ism” or theory of economics. Toc H members by their very Christian nature and concern for social well-being realise the need for material improvements but in helping to achieve these for the community they should insist that civilisation is more than a series of gadgets. “Human beings”, stated Padre Leggate, “are part of one world, a world made up of both material and spiritual values”. Only by such a realisation can the value and dignity of human personality be restored to balance the cock-eyed predicament of modern civilisation. And only along that way will men find their greatest need namely, a way through to the kingdom of God.

## Viewpoints

Scrutiny of Marxism — J. M. Cameron  
Body, Mind and Spirit — Phil. Leon  
The Problem of Evil — J. S. Whale  
Does Christianity Make Sense?

— F. A. Cockin  
(Viewpoint Books; S.C.M. Press;  
2/6d. each; approximate length each  
120 pages.)

If it is true that we are really living in an age of enquiry and not of decay, one which is no longer completely biased by the scientific opinions of its fathers to the exclusion of a religious approach to the mystery of things, then these books should find a ready public among a large percentage of those who make up the progressive social movements of our time. Toc H is such a movement. Many of its members should be readers of Viewpoint books.

J. M. Cameron's book on *The Scrutiny of Marxism* recognises fairly the elements of truth in the Marxian interpretation of history. A good point is made about Marxism having to call in for the fulfilment of its ultimate aims, a 'cosmic purpose', which it normally denies, thus bringing the social order into contact with another realm of experience. Competent scoring is also made with the point that Christianity has itself always had as much a 'material' as a 'pie in the sky' outlook and has therefore universal relevance to men's daily and eternal needs. Thought is given in this book also to Christ as the whole meaning of history; to the shaping of Divine form in society by economic laws—a point often forgotten, and to a plea for the development of a federal and plural form of society as a means of man's salvation from the inherent and increasing dangers of totalitarianism.

*Body, Mind and Spirit* derives its argument from the 'animistic' shaping of Divine form which is found in primitive society—namely an instinctive belief in souls and spirits as the ultimate explanation of the Universe. From there Mr. Leon discusses reality as 'reducible to co-ordinated events which make wholes, systems—in effect history'. A great deal of the book is concerned with an analysis of mind, body and spirit; Spirit being described as a power that mediates, interpenetrates or inspires the world of mind and body.

The third book is a re-print of a published series of broadcast talks now over 10 years old. Their subject matter—the *Problem of Evil*—is one of the most perplexing of existence, especially to younger minds which have been unable to reconcile the manifest cruelty of evil with the alleged goodness of God; not understanding that Christian philosophy has always recognised the reality of suffering and wrong-doing as part of the price paid for human freedom of will and choice of action in the world of affairs. Thus the eternal conflict that ensues is only possible against a background of natural laws which in themselves make for stability. On the human level the conflict provides a challenging environment from which civilisation springs. As the old Greek proverb says, "The best things are difficult", or familiarly put, "No pains, no gains".

Dr. Whale stresses the fact that the death of Christ was the victory of evil "single and complete". Against this the Resurrection, namely the triumph over Death, the ultimate evil, is crucial to Christian thinking and "marvelous indeed".

Having made enquiry into the questions raised in the foregoing books the reader can still ask with the Bishop of Bristol, Dr. Cockin, "Does Christianity make sense?" The author does so by attempting to show that Religion is a real interpretation of history; that "myth is the medium through which an insight into truth which cannot be exactly stated in terms of history, science or logical argument, can be expressed."

In the course of his short arguments the relevance and authority of the Bible is assessed, and the Christian doctrines concerning man, God and spirit are simply and lucidly explained. Here again there is no pulpit language.

The refreshing feature about all these short volumes is the approach. In each case the reader is not asked to make religious assumptions, before a particular case is stated. To these assumptions he may quite likely come; but he will do so after being reasonably persuaded thereto, coming to them as it were of his own volition.

# OH! THAT BRANCH MEETING

Do you know the Gorgonzola Branch? Some of you saw it quite recently, and what a roar it was. Yes, and didn't it also ring a bell? "Our Toc H home," you said, "is very often like that". It is easy and dangerous to generalise but many Branches, far too many in fact, are dull and dreary and more like morgues than Branch headquarters. There is the Branch that is locked up when you arrive reasonably near enough to time. Have you come on the wrong day? No, for here comes a member running towards you, panting for breath and apologising for being late because his watch has stopped! Then there is that Branch that lives in a deal of confusion. Somebody hurriedly taking light while in the background the clatter of cups heralds the fact that a brew is being made. Then there is that other Branch, not in our district or course, where lengthy discussions on some particular corporate job takes place and the speaker wonders when the light is going to begin; where family prayers are gabbled. Yes, we have seen them all. Units leading nowhere, unprepared and without intelligence.

The foregoing may sound far-fetched but it does happen. Possible members are lost. Those already members lose interest. Isn't it therefore absolutely essential that meetings should be well planned? And how often have we said that recently. But what are we doing about it?

First, the meeting place should be bright and cheerful; members and visitors alike should feel that they are in a real and live community, in a place

of action. Then meetings should start punctually; law and order reigning easily throughout. Everybody will then feel that they have not wasted time and are really a part of a great scheme which is doing something worth while. It is desirable that some members should arrive early to see that everything is ready and especially to welcome visitors and the speaker. Nor is that all. The meeting should run smoothly, those taking Light and family prayers having been asked to do so the week before, so that they will have the opportunity to prepare.

Stated baldly like this such points seem elementary. They are. For that reason perhaps, they are forgotten. Let us delve into the matter further.

A good Branch meeting lasts for some two hours, and in that time there has to be room for the Toc H member to exercise the whole man—all four points of his Toc H existence being called into play. Isn't it that which has always put the spirit into the show? In other words, there must be time for mixing—sheer gossip if you like; time for using one's brains with the aid of a speaker or discussion; time to bring in reverent moments like Light and prayers into the family circle; time for serious discussion about jobs. The visitor must feel that he has come not just to a gathering but to a Toc H gathering—that makes all the difference in the world.

### Too Much Business?

Now that business. The Gorgonzola Branch always dies of business. Need

## CURTAIN CALL

More Toc H Units since the war seem to have a corporate interest in the Arts than they had before. This is all to the good; even if most of their artistic efforts still run to solos or brief sketches at Guest Nights; although Mark I at 24, Pembridge Gardens, W.2, have play reading evenings as a regular part of their quarterly programme.

In London, Toc H we know of two more somewhat sustained efforts. The Torch Players is one. This enterprising group of amateur actors is attached to the Wimbledon Branch although only one member of the Wimbledon Branch, apart from Pat Partridge the Director, takes the stage. The other members of the Branch render more invisible but as effective service to the drama behind

the scenes. Their first programme carried a quotation from Bernard Shaw. "I have never, I hope, under-rated the importance of the amateur but I am beginning to cling to him as the salvation of theatrical art."

The plays performed during 1947 by this company certainly strove to live up to that quotation. They included one-act plays by such dramatists as Coward, Shaw and Tchekhov and "Dangerous Corner" by Priestly. The next production is to be more ambitious still, namely, Somerset Maugham's "For Services Rendered." Toc H members can book the date now. It is the 14th and 15th June in the Wimbledon Town Hall. This Hall has a thousand seats so please give Wimbledon Torch Players your support.

### OSCAR

An 'Oscar' should go to Sunbury Toc H for sponsoring a Theatre Club. It is an enterprising affair and exists to visit London theatres. Its members, some 46 strong, make their visits regularly. This appears to be a worth-while job, social and otherwise. Perhaps we could draw their attention to the Wimbledon needs above.

### OUR OWN THEATRE?

#### ART BUILDERS WANTED

With the support of the Mayor of Southwark a small group of Toc H members and their friends are laying plans to develop an Arts Theatre in Southwark, which will include expression in all the arts.

The Toc H members concerned consider that their job is to use their Toc H team spirit and co-operation to launch such a venture outside the family circle. Apart from the significance and importance of Southwark in the history of English literature and drama, this most famous London Borough has some relationship to Toc H; Bishop Talbot, the father of Gilbert, became its first Bishop.

Building such an Arts Theatre will be building indeed. A tentative approach for the use of a blitzed cinema has been made, but whether this is available or not, there will be hard work for the pioneers involved; actors, carpenters, electricians, decorators, scene painters, costume makers and financial wizards!

A meeting of the pioneers will be held in the Club Room at Toc H Headquarters, 47 Francis Street on Tuesday evening, 13th April at 7.30 p.m. The director would be glad to give any preliminary information to those interested.

## Climate at the Tate

The recent climate of the Tate Gallery has been as changeable as the weather. At the beginning of the year it was the temperate sun of Van Gogh that hung there. People went in their thousands, almost Bank Holiday in their mood, to bask in the fierce Southern heat of his exciting genius. Here was verve, violence, rhythm, decoration, and perhaps most important of all, elementary no-need-to-think painting. Such pictures made one start and live.

Next there was Chagall—the Central European Jew making statements presumably about his subconscious and, if art may be assessed by its beholders, always incidentally an interesting exhibition in themselves, then a fit subject for stubby beards, corduroy thinking and possibly ism-ic (new word) intelligence. Here was earthquake art, violent clashes in pigment, but this time deliberate and not as with Van Gogh, caught in a frenzy of instant sensation. Nevertheless, let us admit it, after the first shock these repetitive symbols of the inner, anxious and desiring life, became monotonous, dull, even degenerate, say the highbrows what they will.

Now it is an Englishman on view; Paul Nash. Born in 1885 and dying in 1946; one of England's best-known painters of this century. But will a memorial exhibition so deserving, so varied, so worth-while, in its turn draw the crowd? It is doubtful; but what a pity if it be not so.

Nash, like Chagall and Van Gogh, was affected by the breakdown in values of his time, though with Van Gogh, by an ironic twist of fate at once demented and a pioneer, the process began; his art, seismic, epileptic, convulsive, aptly

you? Need you have any business? On the whole, yes, for how else is that "blow-in" to know why you are meeting and who you are. And that, incidentally, brings us to another point. When did you last have even two minutes' talk on Toc H itself at your Branch Meeting? Do you realise that by a five minutes talk, perhaps before light, on the points of the Compass, on the Charter, on other things by imaginative use of Toc H literature, or by a few words on some piece of service done in another area, or, better still, overseas, it would be possible for your Branch to maintain some such feature in its programme for more than a year to come without boredom or repetition? Well you can, we know. A successful Branch meeting is a matter of technique, and technique is something which all craftsmen use, otherwise there would be no Crafts. For example, the Jobmaster is concise, to the point, and challenging. The Secretary knows what circular is relevant, if any, for a particular meeting. And on this point too we could remind Toc H Headquarters that no circular should ever be longer than a sheet of octavo notepaper and be personal and lively.

### Not A Club

All this, of course, is a matter of intelligence; but then intelligence is the inspiration of technique. Then what about the main item of the evening. Too many newspaper cuttings these days suggest that units just collect speakers or fill in their programmes with haphazard subjects. Toc H meetings are not, surely, mere social evenings which, as a by-product, mentally improve. Toc H members meet, listen and discuss together because what is before them is relevant to the active impact of Toc H on daily life. They are not a club. And this sense of purpose can still be maintained by a balance of grave and gay. It is time units thought again of all these things. After all, what is required is very simple. Why then in heck's name is it hard to attain? Your Branch Executive needs only to pay more attention to detail, to planning, to achieving homeliness and a sense of immediate purpose at all meetings. In the end it amounts to this: If that occasional visitor who comes tonight chooses next week between your meeting and the local Bulldozers' Fellowship then you, my friends, have had it, and are, pleasantly perhaps, but inevitably dead!

coming to a generation that soon behaved so in world affairs. But unlike Chagall, who seems to accept his defeat, or Van Gogh, Nash was neither mad nor down. He comes to grips with the situation, does something about it. The result is fine, controlled, penetrative art; that of a painter organising new meanings into the inner and outer world and making sense.

Nash's climate is somewhat cool. Like most Englishmen he drew inspiration from nature, but a nature which lacks the warmth of human tone, and as a painter he belonged to the abstract school so that some may find his work puzzling. In it his vision makes the inanimate personal; monoliths, trees, window-frames, dank vegetation, men struggling in the mud at Ypres, a sea of dead aeroplanes, geometric angles—all breathe, have relationship and become part of some universal life to which the human figure when it appears is sealed down. But in the water colours what richness and what warmth!

The plain 'bloke' must take the colours and the pattern that balance tone and object for what they seem to say or rather, for this is English art, for what they make him feel. If he perseveres his senses will lead him to understand. Again here is proof that whenever an Englishman of genius takes up the pen, or the brush, or indeed sometimes the sword, he becomes a poet. Those therefore, who love the English heritage and are not afraid of having it declared, and those who feel they should awaken some awareness in themselves in the world of art, should go to the Tate. They have till the 2nd May to do so. The Exhibition except for the catalogue, 2s. 6d., is free.



# DANGER MEN AT WORK

## Topics from Tottenham

Our local correspondent in Tottenham writes as follows—"Tottenham branch has now regained its pre-war strength and the average attendance for Friday night meetings is eighteen. With a keen and active Jobbie at the helm, members have been collecting Christmas cards, stamps, books for Pentonville Prison, clothes for Germany, also for the S.O.S. Society in London.

Recently a large youth group was opened in the borough and several of the Toc H members have helped to organise the numerous activities of the club. Two of them took charge when the Warden was away ill and attended the premises almost every night for two weeks.

A few months ago the branch heard of a blind youth residing in the district, visited him and he now never misses the branch meetings. It is hoped he will remain a member of the family.

## The Blind Are Guests

A surface survey being made among Toc H Units doing work among the blind brings to light the following recent events: Wembley Branch held their Second Anniversary Party for their Blind Club members in January. Members of Lewisham Branch Toc H assist where they can with the entertainment of a Blind Club. Early in January the Whetstone and Friern Barnet Toc H Branch ran a Blind Party for nearly 70 blind folk of the Whetstone and Friern Barnet Blind Clubs. It is known, of course, that other Units of Toc H are interested in work for the blind, whether in clubs or individually. Toc H Ealing Social Club for the Blind celebrated its tenth birthday last November. We should like to hear more of these various activities. It is work that is always there in the community to be tackled and it is good to know that so much is already being done.

## Social Service Council formed

The initiative of Toc H in Uxbridge has led to the formation of a Social Service Council in Uxbridge. According to George Puddle, the Uxbridge Toc H Secretary, the first step towards the project was a column in the Middlesex Advertiser. The follow-up by the Uxbridge Branch had received a pleasing response from 48 local voluntary bodies.

Toc H Uxbridge is to be congratulated upon this attempt to bring the co-operative spirit of Toc H into civic affairs.

## Toc H and Youth

"Help being given by Toc H Units to local youth clubs, Boy Scouts, Boys' Brigade, etc. amounted to approximately 60 Branches and Groups which is just over one-third of the Units in London. A special enquiry throughout the London Units may possibly reveal an even greater amount of help."

This is part of a statement made recently by the London Secretary, "Greeno", to an enquiry from the Toc H Youth Service Committee. "There is evidence" the report continues, "that about 12 Units have contact with pre-service organisations." "Owing to a lack of any real detailed knowledge it is unfair," said "Greeno" (Greenacre) when interviewed by our correspondent, "to single out any individual Unit for mention but we do know some of the things being done".

Biggin Hill are running a youth club under most interesting and challenging conditions. Muswell Hill are experimenting with an over-twenty club and Hammersmith Branch have formed a Rover Crew which meets in the Branch headquarters.

A venture into youth of another kind is being done by Lewisham Branch which is organising discussion groups at youth clubs.

The Youth Service Secretary for Toc H, Alec Churcher, was later asked by our correspondent for his opinions on Toc H youth work and its publicity in the columns in the newspaper. "What is wanted" said Mr. Churcher, "is a colourful, up-to-date description of any really creative job for youth being carried out in London through the inspiration of a Toc H Unit".

## Youth Athletic Meeting

Colney Hall Toc H Branch are actively making plans for their second Youth Athletic Meeting of youth organisations, and the Beckley, Penge and West Wickham areas are likely to be involved. Whit Monday, 17th May is the date for the event; Colney Hall Recreation Ground the place.

## Brighton's London Children's Holiday Fund

In the summer of 1928, Brighton Branch started their scheme known as the "London Children's Holiday Fund" with twenty children. Since then, free holidays have been given each year during the month of August.

Each year the scheme has grown in scope till last year, with the co-operation of Camberwell Branch, nearly one hundred children were given the ozone and freedom of the sea. This year Brighton wish to increase the number still further. They wish to cater for two hundred.

Camberwell Branch are co-operating again but the Brighton fellows would be pleased also to receive from other London Units the names of any deserving children (mainly boys, please) who could be included in the holiday contingent. The children should, of course, all come from poor areas.

The Brighton members obviously take on a contract each year with this job, especially as most of them are only able in the main to handle the children at night. They would, therefore, gladly welcome offers from London members who would also like to spend their holidays at Brighton and help to assist with the children during the day.

Would Secretaries of London Units who are interested please write to Dick Reed, 3 Heath Hill Avenue, Lower Bevendean, Brighton.

## Toc H Singers

Members of Toc H Male Voice Choir derive a tremendous amount of enjoyment from fellowship and singing at the weekly rehearsals and that they also try to pass on enjoyment to others was shown by their engagements during 1947—which exceeded those of the busy year 1946.

These have included many Toc H Guest Nights, Garden Parties, etc. and Concerts for Blind Clubs, Old Folks' Clubs and Hospitals. The Choir's co-operation with Rotary at the Charing Cross Hospital Christmas Party has now become an Annual fixture.

Assistance has also been given to several branches of the Brotherhood Movement and British Legion Units.

With the permission of the Southern Railway, the Choir gave performances at Charing Cross, Victoria and Waterloo Stations and collected by this means £114 for the Lord Mayor's National Flood Fund.

The Choir was also pleased to co-operate with the ladies of All Hallows by carolling in the West End of London in aid of All Hallows' Re-building Fund.

The Choir, whose president this year is "Greeno", rehearses at 42, Trinity Square (near Tower Hill Station) each Monday at 8 p.m. and recruits for all parts are urgently needed. Will all Secretaries please make this known to their members.

Communications regarding engagement to the Hon. Secretary: Mr. R. T. Everett, 31 Grosvenor Road, Chiswick, W.4.

## Books for Prisons

During the last few months the appeal from Toc H London Headquarters through the press for books for the London Prisons has been well answered.

Many Units and individual members have sent scores of books either through Toc H Headquarters, 47 Francis Street, S.W.1, or direct to prisons, and 90% of the literature sent has been readable. "Readable" in this kind of job is a key word. The Governor of Pentonville for one, and also some of those Toc H members who do honorary prison visiting, have stated how much these books are used and appreciated.

## And Toy Therapy

Several London Branches also collected, made and repaired toys at Christmas for children in hospital or in needy circumstances. Barnet Branch thanked their locality in the press for the fine support from the public which had enabled them to deal with some 700 toys in this way.

According to the Jobmaster's report, Edmonton Branch members are repairing toys for the Edmonton Day Nurseries.

Seven Ealing business men—members of Toc H—have a longer term policy concerning toys. They are repairing toys throughout the year in order to raise money for charity. They meet once a week to carry on the job.

These are the sort of jobs that could be done by many units. In fact many unwanted and broken toys would thus find their way renewed to hospitals, homes and other institutions. Two Church of England Homes (The Waifs and Strays) have already appealed to Toc H for some such help. Anyone able and willing?

## THE TREE SPREADS

We welcome the following New Branches to the London Family: Enfield, Eltham, Erith, Fulham, Halstead, Ham, Hanwell, Highams Park and Lewisham, and the following New Groups: Balham, Edgware, Finsbury Park, Hackbridge, Hampstead, Penge and Anorley, the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, South Ilford, and Worcester Park.

## Tailpiece

"Toc H members enjoy a sing-song at their weekly meeting in the Methodist Church. When I asked the Secretary whether there were any Army ditties, he reminded me that they were on consecrated ground!"—Cutting from a newspaper report. Cutting indeed!

## WHAT ABOUT AN EXHIBITION?

Someone has suggested that we hold a London Toc H Arts and Crafts Exhibition. Well, what about it? Shall we say some time in the autumn? or at the time of the National Festival in December? Place? Ah, that is difficult. We shall have to enquire carefully into that. But does that prevent us from making things; from becoming busy right now on the job? Of course not. It is just as important to have something to show as to have a place to show it in. What can we exhibit?

1. Painting, both oil and water colours.
2. Any other Arts and Crafts work, e.g. Cabinet work, embroidery, weaving, jewellery making, lithographs, lino cuts, wood cuts, etc. etc.

3. Metal work, leather work, woodwork.
4. Sculpture.
5. Photography.

Should we require any money? Needs thinking about. It's handy to have anyway. Could we have an entrance fee for exhibiting and a very small one for viewing? In other words, should we get a Committee cracking right away? It all depends on you. Would anyone care to indicate, therefore, if they are willing to consider the idea of an exhibition and if they are willing to contribute. Send your comments to the Editor.

## OLD FOLKS AT HOME

The following Units drawn from both the Men's and the Women's Sections of Toc H have had public record of their Old Folks' Parties held during the last Christmas season which in some cases appear only to have recently ended!

Waltham, Streatham, Bromley, Fulham, Greenford Mark XXII and Ilford all catered for large-scale parties. The old folk in the Crayford party hit the headlines. They sent a loyal message to the King to which His Majesty kindly responded, which to the delight of the old folk was read at their party.

## Hayes Does It

I am not surprised to hear that the guest night which Hayes Toc H held the other evening, has been described as the most successful social event ever held in Hayes.

Certainly it was a community effort in every sense, for apart from the Mayor and Mayoress—who incidentally are Hayes people—the company of 300 included representatives of all—or practically all—the 34 local organisations which, each in its own way, is functioning for the good of that enterprising part of the borough.

Hayes Players put on a sketch especially for the occasion.

## G.C. ISLAND SENDS TOYS

Two cases of toys for London Children was Malta's birthday gift to Toc H last December. These were distributed at Christmastime. "This island", said Mr. Greenacre (Greeno) at a recent Guest Night, "which suffered so severely during the war, was not wrapped up in its own problems. Toc H there made up largely of service personnel started by a few civilians, took a wide view of their responsibilities, and aided and abetted by their friends in the Navy demonstrated that stricken Malta could still lend a hand to some more needy than herself".

## LEPERS ADOPTED

Leper children from Ita and Ozaukall Leper Colonies have been adopted by Sydenham, Streatham and Muswell Hill units of Toc H. This adoption scheme is good. For the privilege of paying £5 a year and receiving a happy photograph of a little black boy or girl together with a report on his or her health and scholastic prowess, a unit can become paternal at remove and enable the child to be supported during treatment.

## Southern Area Divides

As the result of a Conference of all District Officers in the Southern London Area, which took place on the 20th February at the request of the Area Executive, Southern London will divide into two separate Areas in April next. They will be called the Southern London Area and the South East London Area.

The spirit of the meeting was optimistic and encouraging. Southern London has obviously grown too big to be handled by one set of Area Officers and everyone present considered that smaller Areas would enable further expansion of Toc H to take place. The best wishes of the family go to the pioneers of these two new ventures.

Wandle Units, in the same area have decided to split into the Wandle and Croydon districts. The Wandle district will now consist of Carshalton, Hackbridge, Mitcham and Sutton; the Croydon District of Croydon, Norbury, Sanderstead, Thornton Heath and West Croydon.

## Where Do you Lunch?

The Toc H Wednesday Lunch Club is still running and meets at St. Anne's Church House, 57 Dean Street, W.1. (corner of Shaftesbury Avenue) every Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m.

This Club originated in Dean's Yard during the war and then went to Greek Street from where it moved in September 1946 to St. Anne's.

This notice is brought to the attention of all London members and is a special appeal to all those having their business in Central London.

## Central Council GUEST NIGHTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 16th, 1948.

Bromley, H. Gascoigne, E. Mids. Area Sec. *Church Hall, Church Hill, Orpington, at 8 p.m.*  
Croydon, Rev. J. I. Jones, Kent, Surrey & Sussex Area Padre. *Church House, Campbell Road, W. Croydon, at 8 p.m.*  
Priory, Rev. N. McPherson, Lincs. Area Padre. *Old Boys School, Station Road, Upminster, at 8 p.m.*  
South East Essex, J. McClenahan, N. Western Area Sec. *The Scout Hut, Fillebrook Avenue, Leigh on Sea.*  
Tally Ho, H. Dunnett, Overseas Secretary. *Town Hall, Friern Barnet, at 8 p.m.*  
Tower Hamlets, Rev. M. Must, Southern Area Secretary. *St. Martin's Hall, Boundary Road, Plaistow, 7.30 for 8 p.m. (Upton Park Underground).*  
Whittington, J. Madcock, Northern Area Sec. *Kentish Town Headquarters, Highgate Rd., N.W.5 at 8 p.m.*

MONDAY, APRIL 19th, 1948.

Beverley, A. M. Johnston, Scottish Area Secretary. *Mark XX, 67, Upper Richmond Road, Putney, at 8 p.m.*  
Dover Road & Shooters Hill, Rev. R. Tuesday, Oxford & Thames Valley Area Padre. *Geddes Hall Bexley Heath, at 8 p.m. (also presentation of Erith Lamp.)*  
Forest, J. Calli, W. Mids. Area Sec. *Wanstead House Community Centre, The Green, Wanstead at 7.45 p.m.*  
Wandle, M. Elson, S. Western Area Sec. *Hackbridge Hall, New Road, Hackbridge, at 8 p.m.*  
Western Approaches, Rev. S. Heron, N. Wales Area Padre. *Ealing H.Q. (Next to Northfield Station).*

TUESDAY, APRIL 20th, 1948.

Yeading Valley, J. Davies, Kent, Surrey & Sussex Area Sec. *Methuist Hall, Love Lane, Pinner, at 8 p.m.*

### You Can Join in

Help the family purse. The Self-Denial Week asked for by Tubby to assist Toc H funds will be held during the first week of May.

Talking of Finance—note that Toc H will be the Week's Good Cause Appeal over the B.B.C. on Sunday, 7th June at 8.35 p.m.

The Marks Garden Party will take place in the grounds of Mark XX, 67, Upper Richmond Road, on Saturday afternoon, 12th June.

The Southend District Extension Team has made its plans and is about to get cracking.

Were you East of Suez? Then get in touch with Charles Harvey, 14, Mendip House, Globe Road, E.2. Charles wants the names of fellows, Toc H and otherwise, who came across Toc H in the services during the war in India, Burma and Ceylon. The proposal is to hold an India-Burma Toc H reunion in London in the early autumn. Charles is cooking something good here so names and addresses from all over the country will be welcome. Watch this column for further details.

## DOWN TO THE ROOTS

Toc H in Kent has gone to earth in a big way. To assist the farmers to overcome the 4,000 gap in labour shortage with the harvesting of the crops this year Toc H members are to go on the land in the evenings, and a scheme has been worked out by the Regional Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture.

A part of the scheme involves the taking over of the holiday camp at Sevenoaks for Toc H members and their friends for the whole week commencing the 25th September. This camp accommodates 70 people.

The work to be done during that week will be full-time. Toc H Kent thinks Toc H London might be interested, and wonders if some of the London members could arrange to take a part of their holidays during that week? Those doing so would receive 1/5d. an hour for their labour, pay single fare for the double journey and enjoy extra rations; but the work will

The Toc H Movement is a Christian Fellowship, undenominational and non-party political in character, whose members come from every section of society to mix together with the express purpose of being a true family working in service for the general community.

The aims of this worldwide movement are summarised in the four main points which "box" the Toc H compass. These are (1) *Fellowship*, as the expression of the Toc H spirit in right relationships and understanding between people both inside and outside the movement; (2) *Fairmindedness*, or balanced judgements, willingness to hear both sides of every question whether personal, local, national or international; (3) *Service*, in unselfish undertakings for the general well-being of others without reward; and (4) *Witnessing Humbly*, as expressing the Gospel by personal outlook and conduct in everyday life.

Toc H grew spontaneously from that comradeship which is always born of peril and crisis. This tangible bond of being corporately on a job together came home particularly to many men of the first World War, as something worth carrying on. It came back in World War II to a whole people.

Some of the survivors from that first war brought back this spirit from Falbot House Popesinghe—a peculiarly friendly club behind the Ypres salient—the atmosphere of which bore un-

mistakeable witness to the ideal of a Christian spirit fighting in its own way for a world free from human misunderstanding and selfishness, the things that breed wars and other social ills. They planted it in civvy street for their sons to nourish. Following a second war, Toc H is now offering these ideals to men and women of today and to the coming generation. Toc H is therefore not an ex-service organisation.

Toc H is not strictly an organisation at all in the ordinary sense of the word. It is essentially a spirit. There is nothing secret about it and the name itself which may be puzzling is only old army signalage for Talbot House. It consists of both men's and women's Branches which usually meet separately. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 16 and is acquired by a period of probation in the family life before election. Branch programmes range from talks and discussions, on local to international affairs.

Some time during each evening the simple "Ceremony of Light" takes place, when the Branch Lamp is kindled in the darkened room and the members, remembering the general spirit of sacrifice in mankind throughout the ages, pledge themselves in their turn to their voluntary tasks. Financial obligations are based on a self-assessment scheme, members paying what they can afford.

### OUR NATIONAL FESTIVAL

We are permitted to announce that there will be a Toc H National Festival this year. It will be held at the time of the World Chain of Light, 11/12th December. There will be a Festival Evening in the Albert Hall. Details will follow in the course of the year. Londoners will remember, however, that as this will be a National Festival their attendance will be out of necessity and courtesy, be rationed.

### Wheeling the Hub

Our Correspondent from Toc H Headquarters writes that a fairly new departure in Toc H Conferences will take place over the week-end 7/9th May when the Central Executive members will meet members from the Area Executives of Southern England and London at Haywards Heath, Sussex.

The object of this Conference is to think about Toc H policy. Toc H has now begun to regain shape after the break of the war and the Central Executive, together with the Central Staff are wishing to widen the counsels of the Family. They realise to the full that Toc H is a movement in which the opinion of the "bloke" on the circumference is as important—if not more so—as the bloke in the centre. As someone has said, "life at the hub is alright, if it's life and not hubbub!" We understand that the Central Executive hopes that as many of the younger element in Toc H will attend as circumstances and accommodation allow. "If", said the Administrative Padre at the East London Area Executive a few days ago, "your Executive cannot find its quota from among its Area members, then it should induce some of the live youngsters in the Districts to go."

be hard—harvesting potatoes. Work ceases every evening at 5 o'clock and for those who want to participate, the local Toc H will be arranging a series of Guest Nights, outings and entertainments.

This job is vital service indeed. Its contribution to the community cannot be over-stressed, to say nothing of the opportunity here made for Toc H to spread its spirit among an important part of our national life. Any possible help would therefore be greatly welcomed.

George—this is just the thing for your lumbago. If potato cropping doesn't put you in the earth old boy, it will certainly lengthen your stay upon it!

Further information may be had from A. Smith, 59 London Rd., Riverhead, Sevenoaks, but do not as yet address your letters to the Root Croppers Club!

# What is Toc H?

## CORRESPONDENCE

Letters are invited of not more than 300 words.

The views do not necessarily express the opinion of the Editor.

## The Individual in Toc H

Dear Editor,

I have been reminded lately of the value of the individual in collective organisation—especially in a movement like Toc H. Collective fellowship, we know, should result in collective service, but can this result if the individuals forming the mass are not pulling their weight or remain content to leave their contributions to others? I heard a speaker recently declare that leadership, however inspired, cannot replace individual responsibility and too many people were shodding the load of personal responsibility and were looking to some mystical state, system, or "ism", to do for them, what they could only do themselves. Passing the buck is not confined to a circumlocution department.

Society is being de-personalised, yet in our crowded lives we are becoming very much more separate. How much individualism do we find in the crowded greyhound racing meetings, at football grounds or in the modern dance hall? Even the radio has become a substitute for going out into the community, and churches, crowded though they may be, are too often non-social centres. I would be the last to suggest that Toc H falls under this category, but is Toc H in danger of becoming a collection of men and women who are grand collectively, yet slack individually? The answer depends upon the individual. If he is prepared to accept his responsibility and develop it, his fellowship and service must permeate the family group and make it stronger.

Very soon, units will be deciding their officers for the ensuing year, and I think all such prospective officers should be asked whether they are prepared as individuals, to take up their fair share in District and Branch management and service? Is there a tendency in our units to leave everything to one or two? I may be wrong in believing that every member is a potential leader in the unit, but in a family movement like Toc H this should be possible. We know that some men are ideal Chairmen, Jobmasters and Secretaries, and we are loath to part with them for less experienced chaps. Yet, those "good" officers should be prepared to help the inexperienced by counsel, example, and encouragement. We who hold office are naturally proud of the part we play in trying to lead the family, but wouldn't we be prouder men if we could encourage others to do the job better than we are doing it? By this, I do not suggest that there shall be a wild rush to oust those at present in office, but may I ask that more serious consideration should be given to this job of selecting officers? And, where changes are made, can I ask the "displaced persons", to give their wholehearted support to the newcomers? Finally, to every member I would say "You are the vital link in Toc H. If Toc H is to go forward and justify its place in Society, it will be only as each member accepts his responsibility to be himself and his best self in Toc H.

Yours sincerely,  
An East London District Jobmaster.

### NORBURY BRANCH

are holding a Dance

on May 6th at Grandison Hall, 7.30 p.m. Tickets 3/6d. in aid of their Ciné Fund.

### RALLY O

East London Area will hold its Rally for men only at Dagenham on Saturday, 22nd May from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m. Details will be published later, but book the date now.

### SPEARHEAD

On Saturday 31st January, officers of the Units in the Western Approaches District attended a Conference at Ealing Headquarters. This was an "Operations Conference". Jobmasters, Secretaries and Treasurers came together to review manpower, organisation, finance and the prospects of expansion in their locality.

As a result of the discussion on expansion, plans have been made for the expansion of Toc H in Chiswick, Acton and Northolt. In thus bringing the ideals and service of Toc H to a wider field it is hoped that other organisations may benefit.